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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/523,639	03/10/2000	Soumen Chakrabarti	AM9-98-128	5100

7590

12/31/2003

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EXAMINER
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NGUYEN, CHAU T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2176

DATE MAILED: 12/31/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/523,639

Applicant(s)

CHAKRABARTI ET AL.

Examiner

Chau Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-16 are presented for examination.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al. (Lee), US Patent No. 5,937,163, and further in view of Bezos et al. (Bezos), US Patent No. 6,029,141.

4. As to claims 1, 7-8, 13, and 15-16, Lee discloses a computer system, comprising:  
at least one user computer (Abstract, col. 8, line 58 – col. 9, line 8 and Fig. 5:  
host computer);

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a data input device associated with the user computer (Fig. 5: manual input device 56);

a Web server communicating with the user computer (Abstract, and col. 6, lines 43-54);

user logic means at the user computer for accessing the table of inlinks to facilitate generating a list of sibling links based on the table, each sibling link being an outlink of one of the inlinks in the table, for accessing the sibling links (col. 14, line 9-52: table of contents (table of inlinks) contains a hierarchical history of all of the URLs and HTML links entries executed or retrieved, and the display monitor 55 shows the URLs and HTML links of the next level of the hierarchy below the particular entry (sibling links).

However, Lee does not disclose server logic means at the Web server for generating a table of inlinks to at least on Web page associated with the Web server. In the same field of endeavor, Mullen-Schultz discloses a primary computer (server) provides bookmark (history or inlinks) including URLs and Internet addresses of visited websites (col. 3, lines 25-52 and col. 7, lines 13-67).

In the same field of endeavor, Bezos discloses web server 116 of the associate web site 100 includes product-specific hyperlinks, referred to herein as "referral links" (table of inlinks) and each referral link is provided within the catalog document in association with referral information that is transmitted to a merchant's web site when a user (customer) clicks on the referral link (Abstract, col. 1, line 62 – col. 2, line 38 and Fig. 1). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

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the invention was made to combine the teachings of Lee and Bezos to includes server logic means at the Web server for generating a table of inlinks to at least on Web page associated with the Web server. Bezos suggests that referral links would allow potential customers to link to the merchant's web site to initiate purchases of such products from the merchant.

5. As to claims 2 and 9, Lee and Bezos disclose wherein the user logic means includes means for downloading the table from the Web server to the user computer (Bezos, col. 6, line 59 – col. 7, line 40), each inlink on the table being a hyperlink to a respective Web site, such that a person operating the user computer can select one of the inlinks to invoke the Web site associated with the selected inlink (Bezos, Abstract, col. 1, line 62 – col. 2, line 38).

6. As to claims 3, 10, and 14, Lee and Bezos disclose wherein the user logic means includes:

means for downloading the table from the Web server to the user computer (Bezos, col. 6, line 59 – col. 7, line 40); and

means for automatically accessing the inlinks to search the inlinks for predetermined information (Bezos, Abstract, col. 1, line 62 – col. 2, line 38 and col. 6, line 59 – col. 7, line 40).

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7. As to claim 4, Lee and Bezos disclose a data storage device for storing at least portions of the table (Bezos, col. 6, line 59 – col. 7, line 20: a local store of catalog documents 120 (data storage device)).

8. As to claims 5 and 11, Lee and Bezos disclose means at the Web server for pruning inlinks in the table in response to at least one preselected criterium (Lee, col. 18, line 21 – col. 19, line 24).

9. As to claims 6 and 12, Lee and Bezos disclose wherein the preselected criterium is based at least in part on a number of selections of each inlink (Lee, col. 18, line 21 – col. 19, line 24).

10. In Response to Office Action, filed on 10/14/2003, Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Please see the rejection above.

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***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chau Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-4639. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Joseph Feild, can be reached at (703) 305-9792.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application is assigned are as follows:

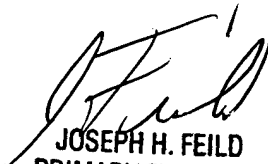
(703) 746-7238 (After Final Communications only)

(703) 872-9306 (Official Communications)

(703) 746-7240 (for Official Status Inquiries, Draft Communications only)

Inquiries of a general nature relating to the general status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Chau Nguyen  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2176

  
JOSEPH H. FEILD  
PRIMARY EXAMINER